

South Carolina Department of Juvenile Justice

# REPORT CARD

for 2011





*DJJ youth, volunteers, and staff begin construction of DJJ's first Habitat House—"The House That DJJ Built."*

## A REPORT CARD TO OUR CITIZENS

In my first year as the Department of Juvenile Justice director, it is an honor to continue a long-standing agency tradition of accountability to the public with our eighth annual “Juvenile Justice Report Card.” This yearly report card is designed to offer the general public an insight into DJJ and its programs, and how they are faring from year-to-year.

I am proud to report that the juvenile justice system continues to improve and serve the public well. The trends of reduced juvenile crime and incarceration continue in South Carolina, in spite of the recent economic downturn that has affected the lives of so many of our citizens.

While DJJ itself, like so many other state agencies, has faced cuts in the wake of this downturn, our staff and volunteers have continued to provide unparalleled service to our citizens to improve the state of juvenile justice in South Carolina. The pages that follow will show that excellent progress in improving the lives of our children is still clearly being made, in spite of the many difficulties we’ve all faced in recent years.

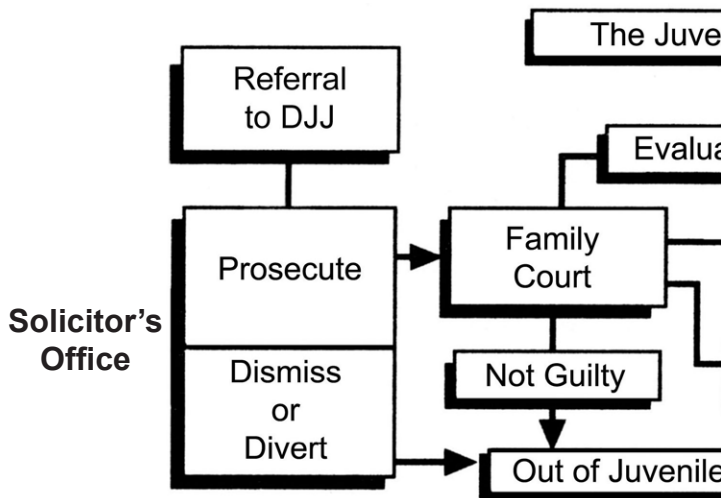
As part of our continuing efforts to support these improvements, we are excited that DJJ continues to expand the GREAT anti-gang program and the Teen After-School Centers (TASC) program, and to improve employability training programs for at-risk youth in many of these centers. We’re also excited to have recently restarted our employability training programs “behind the fence” on our Broad River Road Complex.

Most recently, we have begun an initiative called ***“The House That DJJ Built”*** which provides our youth with job readiness training while building homes for Habitat for Humanity and partnering with the Friends of Juvenile Justice organization. This initiative brings our job readiness training and mentoring efforts together with a worthy charitable cause to help our juveniles “give back” to their community while learning valuable skills in the process.

While there is always room for improvement, I trust this report card will give you, the reader, a good idea of how far we have come and how much we have accomplished. Thanks to the hard work of our dedicated employees and the many volunteers and supporters who contribute so much to this agency, we have—and will continue—to offer hope to the children and families of South Carolina. It is a wonderful day at DJJ!



Margaret Barber  
Director, South Carolina  
Department of Juvenile Justice

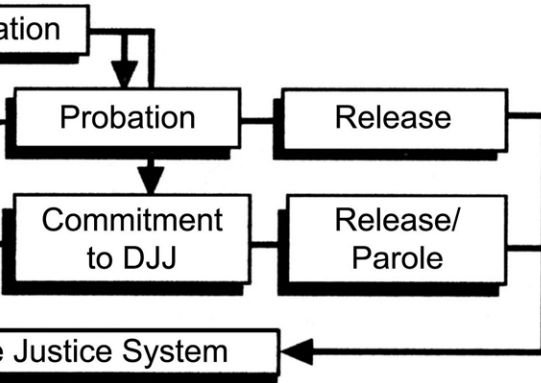


Juveniles usually enter the juvenile justice system in South Carolina when they are taken into custody by law enforcement or when a Solicitor or a school refers them to DJJ. At this stage, personnel at a DJJ county office usually interview the juvenile. DJJ has offices in 43 of South Carolina's 46 counties. Law enforcement also may elect to send the juvenile to a South Carolina juvenile detention center, pending a hearing.

After county office or detention center personnel have interviewed a juvenile, DJJ makes recommendations to the Solicitor's office regarding the case. The Solicitor has a number of options available when deciding how to pursue a case. A Solicitor may choose to divert a juvenile to a community program, such as Juvenile Arbitration, or require the juvenile to make restitution for the offense. Solicitors also may choose to proceed with prosecution or to dismiss a case entirely.

If the Solicitor chooses to prosecute, the next stage of the process involves the family court. A family court judge determines the guilt or innocence of the juvenile and sentences those juveniles adjudicated delinquent (found guilty). Often a judge will request a DJJ evaluation of the juvenile before making a final ruling, or prior to commitment. This evaluation involves psychological, social, and educational assessments conducted either in the community or at one of DJJ's three regional evaluation centers. The resulting comprehensive evaluation helps the judge decide how to proceed in the best interests of the juvenile, victim, and community.

## Juvenile Justice Process



A family court judge may find that a juvenile is not delinquent (not guilty). After a finding of delinquency, the judge has several sentencing options. Chief among these is probation, which maintains the juvenile in the community under DJJ supervision. The judge may also commit the juvenile to DJJ custody by imposing a determinate (fixed amount of time) or indeterminate sentence. An indeterminate sentence allows the youth to be confined up to the age of 21.

Upon indeterminate commitment, a juvenile will be given a time range or “guideline,” determined by the state Board of Juvenile Parole (for all felonies and select misdemeanors) or DJJ’s own release authority (for most misdemeanors and all status offenses). This range is based on the severity of the juvenile’s offense and his history of previous offenses. These guidelines can run anywhere from 1-3 months up to 36-54 months. The Board and DJJ use these guidelines – along with an evaluation of the juvenile’s behavior and progress – to determine the length of incarceration.

Juveniles may remain incarcerated beyond their guideline (up to their 21st birthday). They may also be paroled prior to their minimum guideline for exceptional behavior and progress.

Juveniles may be granted conditional or unconditional releases. A conditional release might involve requiring the juvenile to complete a local aftercare program or program at a wilderness camp or group home. A conditional release also involves a period of parole supervision. DJJ county officers supervise juveniles on parole, much as they supervise juveniles on probation.

For more detailed information visit DJJ’s website at:  
[www.state.sc.us/djj/process.php](http://www.state.sc.us/djj/process.php)



CUSTOMER SERVICES

Customers = Victims, Offenders, and the Community

Cases  
Referred to DJJ

2010 – 2011	18,114
2009 – 2010	20,394
2008 – 2009	23,111
2007 – 2008	23,826
2006 – 2007	24,699

Five Most Frequent  
Offenses Associated  
with Referrals to DJJ

- #1 Assault and Battery, 3rd
- #2 Shoplifting
- #3 Public Disorderly Conduct
- #4 Disturbing Schools
- #5 Simple Posses./Marijuana

Offenders  
Diverted by Juvenile  
Arbitration Programs

2010 – 2011	4,115
2009 – 2010	4,631
2008 – 2009	5,470
2007 – 2008	5,086
2006 – 2007	5,294

Average Daily Population  
FY 2010-11

	2010-2011
Hardware Secure Custody (committed and noncommitted)	492
Staff Secure Wilderness Camps	227
Multi-Agency and Therapeutic Placements	202
Marine Programs	88
Mental Health Placements	50
Total:	1,059

**CASE REFERRALS TO DJJ:** In FY 2010-11, 18,114 cases were referred to DJJ, a 38% drop in the last eight years. Data collected by DJJ at the time offenders exited the juvenile justice system revealed that 66 percent of cases closed involved males and 56 percent involved African-Americans. The average age at case closure was 16 years old.

**FIVE MOST FREQUENT OFFENSES ASSOCIATED WITH REFERRALS TO DJJ:** The #1 charge associated with cases referred to DJJ statewide was Assault and Battery, 3rd degree. Only 8.5% of all cases referred to DJJ involved violent and serious offenses. The number of referrals for disturbing schools has declined almost 63% in the last three years.

**OFFENDERS DIVERTED BY JUVENILE ARBITRATION PROGRAMS:** Juvenile Arbitration is a program operated in all 16 judicial circuits in South Carolina to divert first-time, non-violent juvenile offenders from the court. In the program, trained citizen volunteers work with offenders/parents, victims, and law enforcement to determine appropriate sanctions.

**AVERAGE DAILY POPULATION AT DJJ:** During Fiscal Year 2009-10, an average daily population of 492 juveniles was held in hardware-secure facilities at DJJ. There has been an unprecedented 72 percent drop in daily population of long-term hardware secure facilities at the Broad River Road Complex (BRRC) since 2003.

# A Report Card to Our Citizens

## CUSTOMER SERVICES

### Customers = Victims, Offenders, and the Community

#### Juvenile Parole & Probation Caseloads in Communities

2010 - 2011	4,293
2009 - 2010	4,388
2008 - 2009	4,973
2007 - 2008	5,075
2006 - 2007	5,485

#### JUVENILE PROBATION & PAROLE

**CASELOADS IN COMMUNITIES:** The supervision of offenders in their communities enhances community safety. DJJ's community staff supervised 4,293 juvenile offenders both on probation or parole at the close of Fiscal Year 2010-2011. Eighty-five percent of juveniles on probation or parole, or in Juvenile Arbitration Programs did not re-offend while under supervision.

#### Youth Served by TASC

2010-2011	1,010 Youth
2009-2010	656 Youth
2008-2009	*460 Youth
2007-2008	506 Youth
2006-2007	286 Youth

\*Program was eliminated mid-year due to budget cuts

#### TEEN AFTER SCHOOL CENTERS (TASC):

TASCs are after-school programs that provide mentoring, tutoring, and supervised recreation in the critical after-school hours. After being eliminated in the mid-year budget cuts of 2008, 24 TASC sites were restored in fiscal year 2010. A record 1,010 students were served in 2011. DJJ's new TASC Job Readiness For Teens (TASC-JRT) program (which also provides students with vocational training) was also created in July, 2011.

#### DJJ School District Graduates

2010 - 2011	120
2009 - 2010	143
2008 - 2009	147
2007 - 2008	176
2006 - 2007	149

#### SCDJJ SCHOOL DISTRICT GRADUATES: DJJ

operates its own school district for incarcerated offenders, currently with high school and middle school programs accredited by the South Carolina Department of Education. For the eighth year, DJJ's school district received the "Palmetto Gold" award. The passing rate for the General Equivalency Degree (GED) test at DJJ schools is 78%, exceeding both the state and national passing rates of 75% and 73%, respectively. DJJ schools are also accredited by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools (SACS).

A Report Card to Our Citizens

ACCOUNTABILITY — A Restorative Benchmark

(Repairing the harm to victims and community)

Restitution to Victims

# of Cases:	883
Amount Ordered:	\$ 510,925
Amount Paid:	\$ 372,064
84% of Offenders Paid in Full	

**RESTITUTION:** Offenders are expected to pay back victims of crime for the harm they have caused. Of 8,243 cases closed during FY 2010-11, when restitution was ordered, 84 percent of offenders paid in full. The total amount of restitution collected was \$372,064.

Restorative Community  
Work Service Hours

# of Cases:	3,591
Hours Ordered:	96,199
Hours Worked:	86,571 (90%)
\$ Value:	\$ 627,639 (calculated at minimum wage)

**WORK SERVICE:** Offenders also are expected to perform work service to repay their community for the harm they caused. In 8,243 cases closed during FY 2010-11, 96,199 hours of community work service were ordered. The number of work service hours completed was 86,571, which is 90 percent of the work service ordered.

Arbitration Satisfaction

Overall, I was satisfied with Arbitration Program Services (Rated 1 to 5 with 1 being “most negative” and 5 being “most positive.”)

	<u>2011</u>
Rated “5”	71%
Rated “4”	15%
Rated “3”	10%
Rated “2”	0%
Rated “1”	4%

MEASURING ARBITRATION PROGRAM AC-  
COUNTABILITY:

The juvenile arbitration program has a responsibility to serve juveniles and crime victims. Victims were asked to rate their overall experience with the arbitration program services. On a rating scale with 1 being most negative to 5 being most positive, 86% percent of victims surveyed rated their satisfaction at a four or five.



# A Report Card to Our Citizens

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## COMPETENCY—A Restorative Benchmark (Offenders developing skills needed to live crime free)

### Drug & Alcohol Abuse Offenders Testing Negative

Number Tested: 1,577

Percent Tested  
Negative: 80%

### RESISTANCE TO DRUG & ALCOHOL USE:

In 8,243 cases closed during FY 2010-11, 19 percent of youth were tested while under supervision in the community. Of those youth tested, a negative result occurred in 80 percent of cases. Marijuana was involved in 93 percent of all positive tests.

### School Participation

Youth Enrolled in  
Educational Program or Vocational  
Training at Case Closure:  
7,125 Youth  
(86%)

Youth Not Enrolled but  
Employed at Case Closure  
11 Youth  
(0.99%)

**SCHOOL PARTICIPATION:** During FY 2010-11, 86 percent of the 8,243 youth completing court orders or Juvenile Arbitration Program sanctions were enrolled in school, an alternative education program, or vocational training. Of the 1,118 youth not involved in an alternative educational or vocational program, and who were age-eligible (16 years old) to work, 11 were employed. 28 had already graduated and 189 had attained a GED.

### Employability Training

Youth Completing  
Employability Training

160 Youth

**EMPLOYABILITY TRAINING:** Prior to mid-year 2008 budget cuts, DJJ's employability training program served 684 youth a year in the community. But the training program has been recently been re-established on a smaller scale. During fiscal year 2010-11, 102 youth at DJJ's Broad River Road Complex and 58 youth in the community received employability training.

### Citizen Participation

# of Volunteers: 1,604

Hrs. Contributed: 29,011

Value: \$479,552  
(calculated at \$16.53/hr)\*

### CITIZEN PARTICIPATION/COMMUNITY COMPETENCY:

During FY 2010-11, 1,604 volunteers stepped forward to assist DJJ and the Solicitors' Arbitration Programs as mentors, arbitrators, tutors, auxiliary probation officers, in other capacities in the community, and in DJJ facilities. Citizen volunteers helped to make our communities safer by contributing approximately 29,011 hours of services.

\* This figure for calculating volunteer value is promoted by the South Carolina Association of Volunteer Administration (SCAVA)

COMPETENCY

COMMUNITY SAFETY — A Restorative Benchmark  
(Protecting the public)

16-Year Comparison of  
Violent & Serious  
Juvenile Cases in  
South Carolina

Year	# of Cases
2010-11	1,545
1994-95	3,589

Table A  
Juveniles Committed to  
the Custody of DJJ

Year	Number
2010-11	1,910
2009-10	1,977
2008-09	1,953
2007-08	2,024
2006-07	1,968

Table B  
Daily Population  
Juveniles Held in DJJ's  
Detention Center

Year	Number
2010-11	85
2009-10	99
2008-09	108
2007-08	105
2006-07	122

Recidivism Rate  
Juvenile Offenders on  
Probation/Parole or in  
Arbitration Programs

Number of Offenders	Recidivism Rate
8,243	15%

VIOLENT & SERIOUS JUVENILE CASES:

Nationally and in South Carolina, juvenile violent crime peaked in the mid-1990's. Since then, violent and serious juvenile crime in South Carolina has decreased by 57 percent. The number of cases includes juveniles referred more than once during the fiscal year.

**TRENDS IN JUVENILE JUSTICE:** One indicator of trends in South Carolina's juvenile justice system is the number of offenders committed into the custody of DJJ. Table A compares the number of offenders sentenced to DJJ custody over the past five years.

Another indicator of trends is the number of juveniles being held in DJJ's Detention Center pending court action (seen in Table B). Juveniles detained by the family court and law enforcement agencies and determined to be high-risk offenders are held in detention centers. DJJ's Detention Center has had a drop in the daily population from its peak in 2005-2006. This drop correlated with detention reform efforts implemented by DJJ with the assistance of the University of South Carolina's Children's Law Center. The population levels still exceed the Detention Center's design capacity of 72.

**LAW-ABIDING BEHAVIOR:** Recidivism is the rate at which juveniles are charged with a new offense. Of the 8,243 cases closed during FY 2010-11, 85 percent of offenders on probation or parole, or in Juvenile Arbitration Programs did not re-offend while under supervision. Offenders receiving DJJ's intensive supervision services were 37.5% less likely to re-offend than those under standard supervision.

# A Report Card to Our Citizens

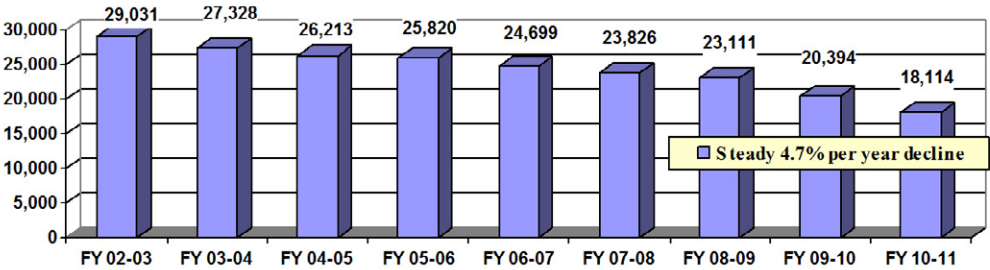
## Improvements Since 2003

### I. SCDJJ Caseload Measures Comparing FY 02-03 to FY 10-11

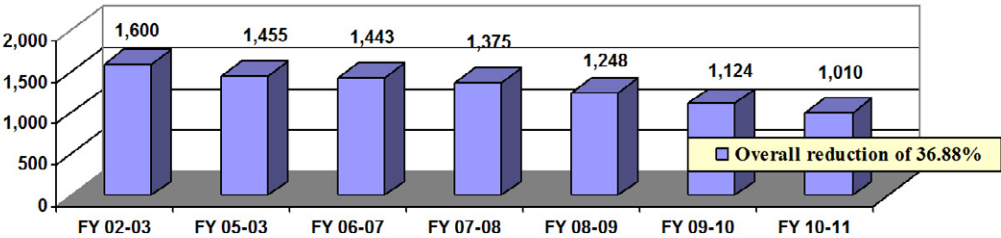
Measure	FY 02-03	FY 10-11	% Change	The reduction in crime and placement has enabled DJJ to sustain cuts thus far without very seriously impacting public safety.
Family Court Intake Cases	29,031	18,114	-37.6%	
Probation Dispositions	6,431	4,542	-29.37%	
Average Daily Population of Committed Juveniles in Hardware Secure Confinement *	871	260	-70.15%	

\*Regional Center for Admissions Processing or Broad River Road Complex

### II. Nine-Year Trend – Number of Referrals to SCDJJ Intake



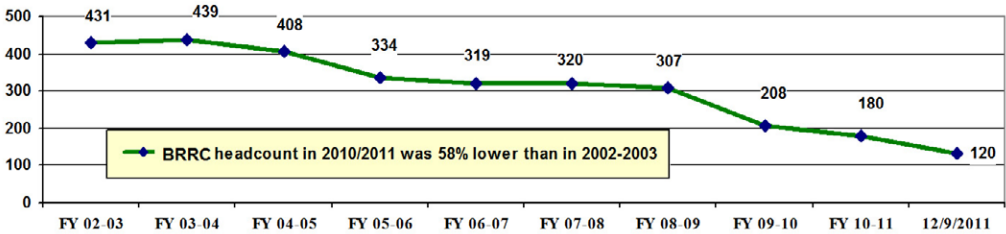
### III. Number of Juveniles in any SCDJJ bed



# A Report Card to Our Citizens

## Improvements Since 2003

### IV. Decline of Population within the BRRC: 2003 - 2011



### V. Cost Comparison Per Juvenile

It cost 40 times more to maintain a juvenile in a hardware secure bed than to intensively supervise him/her in the community.

Type of Bed/Supervision	Per Day	Type of Bed/Supervision	Per Day
Hardware Secure Bed – BRRC	\$300.00 ±	Regular Probation	\$3.29 ±
High Management Staff Secure Bed	\$177.00 ±	Juvenile Arbitration	\$1.95 ±
Wilderness Camp or Multi-Agency Provider Bed	\$100.00 ±	Teen After School Center (TASC)	\$2.50 ±
Intensive Supervision in the Community	\$7.40 ±		

**Special Thanks to DJJ's Performance  
Measurements Partners (Arbitration Programs)**

**The Honorable David M. Pascoe**  
Solicitor, 1st Judicial Circuit

**The Honorable J. Strom Thurmond, Jr.**  
Solicitor, 2nd Judicial Circuit

**The Honorable Ernest A. Finney, III**  
Solicitor, 3rd Judicial Circuit

**The Honorable William B. Rogers, Jr.**  
Solicitor, 4th Judicial Circuit

**The Honorable Dan Johnson**  
Solicitor, 5th Judicial Circuit

**The Honorable Leon Lott**  
Sheriff, Richland County

**The Honorable Douglas A. Barfield, Jr.**  
Solicitor, 6th Judicial Circuit

**The Honorable Barry J. Barnette**  
Solicitor, 7th Judicial Circuit

**The Honorable Jerry W. Peace**  
Solicitor, 8th Judicial Circuit

**The Honorable Scarlett A. Wilson**  
Solicitor, 9th Judicial Circuit

**The Honorable Chrissy T. Adams**  
Solicitor, 10th Judicial Circuit

**The Honorable Donald V. Myers**  
Solicitor, 11th Judicial Circuit

**The Honorable E. L. Clements, III**  
Solicitor, 12th Judicial Circuit

**The Honorable W. Walter Wilkins**  
Solicitor, 13th Judicial Circuit

**The Honorable Isaac M. Stone, III**  
Solicitor, 14th Judicial Circuit

**The Honorable J. Greg Hembree**  
Solicitor, 15th Judicial Circuit

**The Honorable Kevin S. Brackett**  
Solicitor, 16th Judicial Circuit



## **Helping Resources for Families and Crime Victims**

### **Parent Support and Training**

Parents Anonymous SC (800) 326-8621

### **Services for People with Disabilities & Special Needs**

SC Department of Disabilities &

Special Needs (888) 376-4636

Pro Parents (parent support/training) (800) 759-4776

### **Services for People with Mental Health Needs**

SC Department of Mental Health (803) 898-8581

SC Continuum of Care (803) 734-4500

Federation of Families (866) 779-0402

Managed Treatment Service (803) 245-5147

### **Job Training & Education Services for Youth**

SC Vocational Rehabilitation (800) 832-7526

Job Corps (803) 245-5101

Wil Lou Gray Opportunity School (803) 896-6480

### **Residential Services for Girls**

Florence Crittenton Home

(serves pregnant girls) (843) 722-7526

Crossroads Group Home (864) 246-0266

### **Alcohol/Drug Abuse Treatment/Counseling Services**

SC Department of Alcohol

& Other Drug Abuse Services (803) 896-5555

Palmetto Treatment Center (843) 662-9378

William J. McCord Adolescent Treatment Center (803) 534- 2328

### **Residential Services for Children**

SC Association of Children's

Homes & Family Services (803) 996-5437

Carolina Children's Home (803) 787-2306

Connie Maxwell Children's Home (864) 942-1400

Epworth Children's Home (803) 256-7394

### **Services for Victims of Crime**

SC Crime Victim's Ombudsman (888) 238-0697

SC Victim Assistance Network (SCVAN) (888) 852-1900

SC Coalition Against Domestic Violence  
and Sexual Assault (800) 260-9293

### **Information on Local Services**

DHEC Care Line (800) 868-0404

For additional information regarding resource needs, or services provided by DJJ, please go to **[www.state.sc.us/djj](http://www.state.sc.us/djj)**.



*A DJJ youth helps with painting a community center sign as part of DJJ's annual "Restoring Carolina" Community Service Day*

## DJJ's Mission

Protecting the public and reclaiming juveniles through prevention, community programs, education and rehabilitative services in the least restrictive environment.

## DJJ's Vision

DJJ will fuse its community and institutional resources to create a seamless continuum of services within a restorative justice framework, thereby becoming optimally effective in fulfilling its mission to redirect the lives of troubled youth.

For more information contact:  
The South Carolina Department of Juvenile Justice  
(803) 896-9518  
[www.state.sc.us/djj](http://www.state.sc.us/djj)

The printing of this document was generously supported by the Children's Law Center at the University of South Carolina Law School.

The South Carolina Department of Juvenile Justice does not discriminate in any programs or activities on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, disability or age. THE FOLLOWING OFFICES HAVE BEEN DESIGNATED TO HANDLE INQUIRIES REGARDING THE NONDISCRIMINATION POLICIES:

Title IX –Inspector General's Office – 803-896-9595  
Title II & 504 – Special Education Office – 803-896-8484